

PUBLIC NUSANCE

CONSIDERED

12331. 6th. 42

UNDER THE

Nuisance Act

SEVERAL HEADS

OF

Bad PAVEMENTS, BUTCHERS infesting the
STREETS, the INCONVENIENCES to the
PUBLICK, occasioned by the present ME-
THOD of BILLETING the FOOT-GUARDS,
and the INSOLENCE of HOUSEHOLD-
SERVANTS.

WITH SOME

Hints towards Remedy and Amendment,

To which are added,

Some further Thoughts relating to Vagrants
and desperate Poor, and how to keep them
within better Rule and Government, the best
Security to the Publick against Robbery and
Murder.

By a GENTLEMAN of the TEMPLE.

*Sero Medicina Paratur
Quum Mala per longas Invaluere Moras.*

OVID.

L O N D O N :

Printed for E. WITHERS, at the *Seven Stars*, opposite
Chancery-lane in *Fleet-street*.

[Price One Shilling.]



PUBLIC NUSANCE CONSIDERED, &c.

Bad PAVEMENTS.

GR E A T Abuses generally owe their Rise to small and unheeded Beginnings, and have rarely any Stop put to them till they arrive at such a Degree of Inconvenience, that they require almost the whole Voice of the People to obtain a Redress. Those I have now in Pursuit regard chiefly the City of *London*, or rather its Suburbs, and are the bad Pavements of the Streets, the Butchers and Poulterers Shops increasing in them, the Manner of quartering

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Soldiers

Soldiers by Billet on the Publicans, and the insolent Behaviour of the Generality of Household Servants, with some Thoughts relating to Vagrants and desperate Poor, and laying Restraint on the lower Class of People. I do not forget the great Complaint and Reproach to our Government, the present and long complained of State and Condition of our Poor in general, as to which I wish some general Plan could be settled upon some such Principles as have been many Years since given to the Publick by Sir *Josiah Child*, in his little, but inestimable Treatise upon Trade: But this is an Article of too great Weight and Consideration to have Place in a few Sheets, and therefore I shall not attempt it, but proceed to those Nuisances I have mentioned, which I shall endeavour to point out, as they affect us at this Time, by some short Observations on the Notoriety of them, and what I apprehend to be the Cause, and to give some Hints, which if followed and improved by those who have Power to do it, would I hope soon shew the Remedies are at Hand, and may, if we please, be easily applied in the Cure of them.

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First, As to bad Pavements; and before we talk of Amendment, let us a little consider how they come into such a Condition. I think they are owing chiefly to very obvious Causes, the great Weights of loaded Carriages in the Meal, Coal, Brewers, and other Trades, the breaking up the Streets for laying or mending the Water-pipes, and laying them down again in too slight a Manner, and not with that Care and Labour which the Work requires, it being very difficult, after the breaking up Part of a good Pavement, to lay it down so close, or make it as good again as the rest, and this from the pernicious Practice of paving again with Ashes, Dirt, or Rubbish, instead of Gravel, the only Thing that will bind the Stones firm. In Truth, there is more Care required to make good such a Breach than to make a new Pavement. Another Cause is, the different Wear of Pavements, as being laid at different Times, which creates a great Inequality in the new paving and mending, only a little Spot being paved at a Time. A still further Cause, and perhaps the greatest, is the total Neglect of them before Houses that are untenanted; or if tenanted, the Incapacity or Unwillingness of the Owner. All these are well known to every one of the least common

Observation, and make it very evident why it is almost impossible as the Law now stands; and these Things suffered, that the Streets should be in any better Condition than they are, the Filthiness of them is owing to the Consequence of what is above-mentioned; and although there may be great Negligence used in doing the Scavenger's Work, yet it is hardly possible for them to keep the Pavement swept clean, where there is one Third of it, or perhaps more, always broken, and greatly out of Repair.

By the Statutes of the 2d and 3d *W. and M.* the Inhabitants are, at their own Expence, directed to pave with Stone or Gravel, or otherwise amend all the Ground in the Front of their Houses to the Middle of the Street, as the Justices shall order, with Penalties in Default of paving or mending. This regards new Pavements, but no Power is given by that Statute to inspect or view the Pavements when made, so as to order Amendments when and where wanted, or the Manner of paving when first or wholly paved, all which is absolutely necessary to provide for, as also to preserve them against an Inequality of Paving. Now, one House-keeper mends or paves with small Pebbles, another

Bad PAVEMENTS.

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ther with great, a third with Rag-stones, a fourth with broken Flints, a fifth is poor, a sixth is able, but backward and unwilling. This last is worst of all, and nothing but Law can force them; and yet, for the Sake of Peace, or a more sinister End, it is but rare that the Law is put in Execution; Neighbours will not complain of one another, it may be their own Turn. Thus, while there is no Standard for Paving, the subsisting Laws not sufficient, and even those we have already, neglected to be carried into any due Execution, it is less to be wondered the Streets are so badly paved and kept, as that the People have been so long without some more effectual Remedy.

If the Care and Management of the Pavements was lodged in one Trust, with a sufficient Power not attended with great Expence, first to take a Survey of the Streets, Lanes, &c. then to break up the present Pavements, and to order an uniform Pavement of all the Streets afterwards, the Whole to be paid for, by an annual small Levy upon the Housekeepers in general, in the easy Manner hereafter mentioned, forbidding afterwards the breaking up any Pavement, or laying any Pavement anew, but by the Order or Consent of such Trust only, or
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by those Paviours who should have Power under the Trust for this Purpose, the Streets would then be well laid with one equal Pavement at first, and be afterwards kept in Repair at a small Charge, and all this done without Complaint or Punishment: All Carriages would then move with that Ease and Pleasure that every one would wish. And I might add here, what an Advantage also it would be to Trade, by making the Carting much cheaper, as there would be a less Number of Horses required, and much less Wear of the Carriage and Tackle, all which easy Streets, and even Channels, would soon make evident.

Now, in Order to put such a Scheme in Execution, and at the same Time keep it as clear as possible from Jobbs, and with the least Expence, and greatest Frugality; we must, no Doubt, beg the Assistance of Parliament, and pray for a wholesome Law for the Purpose, by which, after repealing such Acts as may now relate to these Pavements, the Quality of Materials must be ascertained, and the Manner of paving the great and lesser Streets, Lanes, and Alleys set forth and described; as also where to place the Channels, and of what Depth. What Declivity is to be observed in some Streets, from
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the Footway to the Channel (where the Channel should be in the Middle;) and in others from the Middle of the Street (where the Channels should be on each Side) with Liberty to any Inhabitant, who might desire a crossing Pavement to his Door, to direct the same to be done, paying the Paviour belonging to the Trust, what should be the Difference between a crossing or larger Pavement, and the ordinary Pavement.

In the next Place, to forbid paving with any other Kind of Stone than Pebble, and any other Kind of Layer than Gravel, and that Sort too which is fittest for the Purpose. Then to put the chief Trust in those Hands I am going to mention, which will be a sufficient Guard against Imposition, and by which the different Works will be prudently contracted for, and the Publick secured that they will be well performed (the Streets, &c. being previously surveyed as mentioned, that the Work may be estimated and undertaken to be done by Degrees, that is, one Parish after another, and under one steady Plan.) And for this Purpose, I think it would answer to vest the chief Power in the Commissioners of the Land-Tax for the Time being, residing within the Circuit of the whole Work; (which, I hope, no Gentleman in that Commission

sion will refuse) and that the Commissioners within every Parish should meet in the Vestry of the Parishes, and five of them make a Board in each Parish, with Power, *First*, To direct the Survey and Estimate to be made of that Parish's Paving, and afterwards to appoint one Person, who is a Paviour, to undertake the Work, and agree with him to allow for the old Pavement, and to pave it again according to the Directions of the Act. And also to appoint one other Person to measure the Work when it should be compleated, or at any other Time before, when the Contractor might by his Contract be entitled to a Payment; so that no Money be paid, but as the Work went on, and was truly done; the Surveyor and Paviour, as well as the Measurer, to be contracted with by Agreement in writing, to do the Work by the Great, and paid at the known and usual Prices.

To answer the Expence of this Work, many contributing will make it easy; and it may be done by a small Assessment upon all the Inhabitants of all the Parishes concerned; the whole Assessment to be apply'd to the Paving of one Parish at a Time, and to be continued until the Paving of all is compleated: This will not only quicken the Work, but the Assessment will be borne

borne without Objection, as it will, upon the whole Number of Housekeepers, be but a small Addition to their present Highway Levy, and is only a general submitting to a little exceeding for a little Time, to enjoy a great Convenience for the Time to come.

By this Means, every Parish, according to its Course of Paving, will have the Aid of all the rest to do it, and easily reap a Benefit by this Assistance, which, of itself, perhaps it could never obtain. What this Assessment will be, may easily be ascertained, when the Survey, and an Estimate of the Expence is made, and compared with the Number and Ability of those who are to contribute to it, and the Trustees have settled the Assessments in such Proportions, as each Set of Commissioners in each Parish shall judge each Parish can bear, and which would no Doubt be laid with that Equity, Prudence, and Caution it deserves.

Further, to carry on the Design, we will presume the Act shall direct, that the Surveyors of the Highways in every Parish shall be the Collectors; and that while any Parish is Paving, the Assessment of the whole, as above-mentioned, be paid to the Surveyors of the Highways for such Parish, by the Surveyors of the rest of the Parishes, until the Paving of that Parish is completed;

pleated; and that from Time to Time, as the Work goes on for that Parish, and is measured, the Commissioners may grant their Warrant on the Surveyors of the Highways of that Parish for Payment, suiting the paving Contract to such Times as the Provisions for Pavement will answer; and when the Work of that Parish is performed, the over Money, if any in the Surveyor's Hands, to be paid over by the like Order of the Trustees to the Surveyors of the next Parish in Course to be paved, and the same Rule to be observed quite through the Whole; the Surveyors of the Highways of every Parish keeping Account of their Receipts and Payments, which Account must be passed, and allowed by the Trustees, and then entered in the Vestry-Book of the Parish, for which Purpose, and for taking Minutes of the Trustee's Proceedings, &c. during the Work, a Gratuity to the Clerk of the Vestry to be allowed by the Trustees, will be all the Expence of Office that can attend it. The Survey and paving Contracts should also be entered in the Vestry-Books, and the Originals preserved among the Parish Records.

When the first great Work is performed, the usual Highway Assessment of each Parish will keep it in Repair; but in order to do this still in
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the same Manner, the Trust must continue, the Paviour and the Measurer must be yearly appointed by them, the Trustees to remain the sole Judges of any Want of Repair and Amendment, and to appoint the Paviour to do the Work as wanted in the same Manner the first Paving was done, and the Measurer to measure it, and the Trustees still to draw on the Surveyors for the Payment; and that no Cause of Complaint may be without a speedy Remedy, a Meeting of the Commissioners might be provided for by the Act, on the Notice of any six, or four of the Parishoners in every Parish, who are Housekeepers, to be left with the Vestry-Clerk, who might have Power to summon them at a short Day, to hear, and judge of the Complaint, who, by their Warrant to the Measurer and Paviour, might make such Order as was necessary in it.

Under such a Plan and Authority, it is hardly possible, that any Thing like Imposition can attend the Work, as the few Actors in it are distinct, and under immediate Inspection, and Controul of the Trust; the Surveyor, the Paviour, and Measurer are chose and appointed by the Trustees themselves, Men of Fortune and Character, having no other than a common In-

terest with the rest of their Neighbours (who will only be required to give Attendance when they themselves appoint it;) and as for the Money, they will be in no wise accountable, that going through other Hands, and nothing more desired or required of them, than to appoint the three Persons before-mentioned, and look over a short Account now and then of a few Receipts and Payments; and, if they have no Objection, then to give it the Sanction of their Approbation. As to the Paviour, he must undertake to provide the Materials, and do the Work as the Act shall direct, at a stated Price, and be paid according to Measure, and may receive his Money as soon as the Work is done, and the Measurer has reported it, without any Abatement or Deduction whatever. The Measurer must be contracted with for his Business, likewise, at a certain Rate, and be under the same Rule of Payment; and these, with the Surveyor, who must be also contracted with, and for a certain Price, and paid as above, are all that the Trustees have Occasion to treat with, and employ in the whole Affair, except the Vestry-Clerk, whose Gratuity will be proportioned to the Trouble he takes upon him.

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As to the Assessment, it may be directed by the Act to be made in the same Manner the present Assessments for Repair of the Highways are done, the Surveyors of the Highways in every Parish, as I have said, to collect it; and as the Trustees order to pay it.

Thus the whole seems capable of being conducted and carried on at little or no Expence, without the usual Load of Salaries for Commissioners, Treasurers, Comptrollers, Secretaries, Accountants, Clerks, &c. which are the common, and often necessary Attendants on great Commissions, while this, with the little Assistance required, will almost execute itself.



Butchers infesting the Streets.

THE next Abuse is that of Butchers and Poulterers setting up Shops and Stalls, in the best and most publick as well as private Streets, from one End of this great Town to the other. This Practice increases so much every Year, that if not put a Stop to, will, in a little Time, be one of the greatest Nuisances among us.

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The holding of Markets must have been a very early Care in all well-governed Cities and Towns, where the People may have constant and necessary Supplies, and those who furnish the Provisions, a certain Place and Time to expose and sell them, and therefore certain Places for Markets, and certain Times for holding them, have been always observed. By this the Providers have the speediest Vent for their Goods, are encouraged in bringing a constant Supply, which produces Plenty; Plenty furnishes the Inhabitants with Choice, and Cheapness follows it; the Value of Provisions is thereby better known, and in some Measure ascertained, and the Buyers secured from the Imposition of the Market-people, who, on various Pretences, know too well how to enhance the Prices of their Goods upon ignorant and unwary Purchasers.

There was always another Reason, and a most essential one, why Markets have had particular Places assigned for keeping them, which was, that they might be held where they would be the least Annoyance to the People; and thus disposed of, their Business was kept from the common Eye of the Publick, and the Butchers and others being together, it was with greater Ease

Ease that these Kind of People were kept under good Regulation among themselves. And lastly, Provisions were there the more easily inspected by the Owners or Overseers of the Markets, that no unwholsome Food should be exposed to Sale.

From the Convenience that was found in keeping the Markets thus in certain Places, and at certain Times, those who provided Shelter, Shops, Stands, and other Conveniences for the Market-people, and were Proprietors of the assigned Place, were allowed, for their Encouragement, to take an Acknowledgment of them for such Conveniences, which brought up the Custom of taking Market-tolls, and afterwards of making Rules and Laws, for keeping good Order between the Market-owner and Market-people.

There is a pretty strong Authority, which has been shewed me in the Law-books, by which it appears, that the common Law, rightly observed, does not allow selling of Meat out of the Market. This is a Case reported by several of the old Lawyers, and remains in their Books, as no Doubt many more of the same Nature, and is the Case of the Prior of *Dunstable*, who had a Power of holding a Market
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in that Town on certain Days ; and upon an Action brought by the Prior against a Butcher for selling Meat in his House out of the Market, the Butcher pleaded he was a Housekeeper, and prescribed, that all Housekeepers had used, Time out of Mind, to sell their Meat in their Houses, and insisted he had a Right so to do ; but nevertheless it was adjudged, that he could not prescribe to sell his Meat in his own House, but must sell it in the Stalls in the open Market on the Market-day ; that the Lord of the Market had the Correction of the Market, and might order and examine into the Management of it, and of the Goodness of the Provisions, which could not be examined by his Officer but in open Market ; and as the Market was held on the Place appointed for that Purpose, the Butcher could not sell in his own House, but in the usual Place on the Market-day, and where the Prior's Officer could only take the Toll of the Market-people, and inspect the Provisions.

Whether this is good Law still, I will not pretend to determine, but I think I may venture to say it ought to be, and that a more summary Way to remedy any of these Market Complaints, should be now had, and at an easier Rate, and with more Certainty, than in the Courts

Courts of Law, where the Expence and Delay, as well as common Mistakes and Errors of Clerks, have tired out the best Intentions of doing the Publick many a signal Service.

In Order, therefore, to come at the Remedy for the present Evil, it will be proper to examine into the Nature of it, and how the Publick is affected by it. When a Butcher, or Poulterer, intends to set up in the Street, it is generally the Consequence of having married some Maid Servant in some good Sort of Neighbourhood, where she is known among the Servants of other Families there, and is all the Fortune the Husband has with her, and, therefore, must be made the most of; with this Prospect of Custom, he takes a House, on Purpose to convert it to one of these Shops, and by this Acquaintance, and the never-failing Considerations to the marketting Cook or Footman, they are to give him what Price, and take what Kind of Provisions he pleases, his Shop is something nearer than the Market, the Servant is saved the great Trouble of going so far; and this Temptation to Idleness succeeds so well, that no Matter what the Master pays or suffers for it, the Butcher, or Poulterer, soon gets established: And under such a Combination, I do not wonder the Imposition

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continues without Discovery, or perhaps Complaint, even from those who are most concerned and abused by it.

If a Tradesman, or other Neighbour, of middling Rank, comes to buy at this private Shop, Is he not sure to suffer by it? As to Price, is it not in the Seller's Power to enhance it when he pleases? Is it not notorious that he does so, and that the Street Butcher raises a Half-penny, or Penny in the Pound, upon the Market Price, on all his Meat, and the Poulterer 3 d. or 6 d. in every Piece of Poultry he sells? Thus the Buyer is deceiving himself, while he is complying, under a Kind of forced Necessity, to take what a single Shop affords, and takes what does not suit him, rather than go to the Market; although he would be sure of Choice, Cheapness, and Plenty, and lay out his Money more to his Fancy, and more to the Advantage of himself and Family, and at the Year's End would find it a sensible Saving in his Accounts. It may be said, Why does he lay out his Money there, at a private Shop, if it is prejudicial to him? I must answer, That the Temptation should be removed, and he would never think on it.

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Again, These Shops are under no Power of Inspection, as the Market is, and ought to be: If the Shopkeeper sells bad Meat, he defies you to punish him for it; you saw what you bought, and he will tell you, he did not warrant it; but, that he may not quite lose you, he will comfort you with a Promise to make you amends another Time. If any Man should call on him, to shew his Meat for Inspection, such a one would no Doubt be treated as a Trespasser, and he would turn him out of his Doors. If you tell him his exercising his Trade in the Street is a Nuisance, he sets you at Defiance again, and the Law too, and talks of his Masters that will stand by him, and he will see if he cannot defend himself against you, or any one else. If you ask him why he does not keep the Market, he will tell you Markets are for those that like them, and he will butcher and sell his Meat where he pleases; although he has heard, and knows too, that no private Member is to do an Act that is a Nuisance to his Neighbourhood.

The Punishment and Removal of Nuisance, is one of the greatest Marks of Liberty among us, and it is so guarded by our Laws, that all

the King's Authority cannot pardon a Nuisance ; it must be removed, and happy would it be for the People, if the Removal could be obtained, without the Delay and Expence that attends it. Juries are no Doubt the Guardians of our Liberties, and ought to be so ; yet in such Breaches of the Peace, our Liberties should be easier to come at, and better Order would be found among us.

The Corporation of *London* has, within their Walls too, let this Nuisance of Butchers infesting the Street, go so long unregarded, that it is getting the better of them.

Before Market-places in the City were specially appointed, the Streets were the common Places for bringing to, and selling Provisions ; but the great Inconvenience at last induced the City to purchase proper Places, and appoint their Markets to be held in them, and at certain Times, as I have mentioned ; and good Rules and Orders have been made, to encourage the Market-People to resort to them ; and I am told, would have been observed at this Day, had not their Farmers of the Markets abused their Powers, by exacting too large Rates on the Market-People, and by that Means forcing them out of the Market ; but before this, no such Practice of deserting the Market had been attempted.

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These Disputes were, after long and very expensive Proceedings at Law, at last amicably determined, to the Satisfaction of all Parties; and, if the City had then put a Stop to the growing Desertion, and had made some good Law, forbidding such Practice for the future, the Outliers would have soon come in, and no Freeman would afterwards have set up his Privilege of carrying on Trade in his House, if that Trade was a common Offence and Nuisance to his Fellow-citizens; nor would the Community have endured it for the Sake of his private Interest; no Freeman would have then thought to take a private House in a private or publick Street, to make a Shamble and a Butchery of it, in the Face and under the Nose of the Publick, but would have been contented to have carried on his Trade in the Place assigned for it, and where his Fellow-citizens (and himself too) had thought most proper.

However, so it is, that the City now, as much as the other Part of the Town, is infested with this shameful Practice; the offensive Smells, the disagreeable Objects of bleeding Heads, Entrails of Beasts, Offals, raw Hides, and the Kennels flowing with Blood and Nastiness, are but Part of the Nuisance; the very Footway is so obstructed with jutting-out Dressers, Blocks covered with

with Meat, and Rails advancing on the Street, that the Passenger is forced into the Highway to get clear of it.

I must still add one Nuisance more that attends this Liberty, a great one indeed, if not the greatest of all; and that is, that almost every Butcher has behind his House his Slaughter-house; the Offence it must be to his next Neighbour, is of more than a common Nature; but with respect to the Publick, it is the Cause of many irreparable Mischiefs; to this we owe the most, if not all the Accidents, which happen to the People, by driving horned Cattle through the Streets, the driving these Cattle, and the Manner in which they are treated afterwards, will prove it. They are drove in Company from the Country (or the Places they rest at in the Outskirts of the Town) to the live Market in *Smithfield*; when there, they are sold singly, and forced singly from their Herd by these Street Butchers; which is not the Case of the Beasts bought by the Butchers belonging to the publick Markets, they having publick Slaughter-houses in bye Places near their Market, where many are again drove together, and will keep Company without being untoward, and thus very rarely do any Mischief; but in the Case of driving them singly to the private Slaughter-house, it is much if they

they do no Mischief by the Way; a single Beast will often require two, if not three Men to drive him, though a Number may be drove by one Boy. When the Beast that is drove singly comes near the Door or Way into this private Slaughter-house (generally next the Butcher's Shop) the Smell of the Shop from the Blood frequent there, gives him at once Offence, and he starts back, while those who drive him endeavour to force him on; in this Struggle, if he can, he breaks from his Drivers (which is too common) he is then pursued about the Streets till he is heated, or grown mischievous or mad, as they call it; and after terrifying the People for two or three Hours, and perhaps wounding, if not destroying, some unfortunate Passenger or other, who cannot get out of his Way, he is Ham-cut, or otherwise disabled, before he can be led to Slaughter. This is so frequently the Case, that hardly a Week passes but some Accident of this Kind makes a melancholy Paragraph in our News-papers..

If there wanted Markets in *London*, it were easy to add to their Number; but when it is considered, that there are at least twenty within our weekly Bills, and within about Half a Mile of one another, and of these one Third of each
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empty, it is the strongest Evidence that that is not the Cause, and that it is an Abuse of Liberty, like many others, growing every Day upon us.

To remedy this Evil will require some Time, a sharp Remedy might perhaps have the best Effect, and do it at once; but as harsh Measures does not suit with the Policy of an *English* Government, so we must do it by Degrees. To stop the further Progress of it is not so difficult; but to get quite rid of such a Nuisance, and such a Set of lawless People in some Sort established by Time, who will plead the Privilege of annoying their Neighbours and the Publick, because others have done so before them, requires a little more Consideration.

However, to begin with the Reform, and put a Stop to it immediately, none should from henceforth be suffered to set up a Butcher's or a Poulterer's Shop in the Streets; and as to the present Street Butchers, who now have Slaughter-houses, as I have said, behind their Shops, they should be directly restrained from slaughtering Beasts there, or elsewhere, but in the publick Slaughter-houses of the publick Markets, to some of which they should be obliged to drive all their Beasts from the live Market, not less than six or eight together, paying the usual Prices

Prices for Slaughter as the Market Butchers belonging to such Market.

In the next Place, these present Street Butchers should be directly obliged to keep their Blocks within the Shop, and to have no Dresser, Rails or Brackets to advance beyond the Wall of the House, nor hang any Heads of Beasts, nor expose any of the Entrails or Offals in publick View, on Pain of forfeiting such Meat to the Poor.

Again, I would also propose, that every Street Butcher and Poulterer should register his Name, House or Shop, and Situation, in a Book for that Purpose, to be kept with the Clerks of the several Butchers and Poulterers Companies, that the identical People may be known, and their Names remain so registered, for the Purpose hereafter mentioned; and if any Butcher or Poulterer should neglect to register, within a Time to be limited for that Purpose, he should, on Conviction before one Justice of Peace, forfeit such Provisions as he should at any Time afterwards expose to Sale in such his House or Shop, to be seized by Warrant of Distress, and disposed of; the Produce, after taking the Charges thereout, to be divided between the Informer and the Poor. This, it is presumed, will not be reckoned a severe Punish-

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ment, as it cannot fall on the Offender but by his own wilful Neglect, and Contempt of Authority.

The next Point to consider is, their total Removal; and, previous to this, Care should be taken, that the Market Proprietors or Farmers should not enhance the Prices of Shops, or Standings upon them, when they did of themselves leave the Streets, or were in Time obliged so to do, and come into the Market, but take common Prices. As to the Market Proprietors or Farmers providing Conveniences, their own Interest will prompt them to that.

As to the total Removal, it must be by Degrees, unless it should be thought expedient to give them one or two Years Time to get rid of their Houses, and settle themselves in the Market; if not, and that this should be thought too harsh a Measure, it might be provided by a Bill for these Purposes, that on the Death or other Accident attending the Master or Mistress of a Street Shop, by which they were removed from the same, no other Butcher or Poulterer should be permitted to hold that Shop, or carry on such Trade or Business in that House or Shop any more; and on such Death, the Executor or Administrator, or on such Removal, the Butcher or Poulterer himself, under some Penalty, should be

be obliged to enter his Removal, with the Day and Year, against the Register of his Name, which would be standing in one of the Company's Books as above. Thus we should, in a few Years, see these Registers all wrote off, and the Nuisance in this Manner effectually removed, and well guarded against for Time to come, without any Imputation of Severity whatever.



*The Inconvenience to the Publick by
the present Method of Billeting
the Foot-guards.*

THE next Article I have to touch upon, is the present Practice of Billeting the Foot-guards about this great City. These Soldiers are billeted under the Authority of the yearly Act, called the Mutiny Act, which provides for the better Payment of the Army and their Quarters; and this Billeting falls upon that Set of People, who are presumed to be the best circumstanced to bear it, which are the Publicans; or, to speak rather near the Language of this Act, they are the Innholders,

Keepers of Livery-stables, and all Persons keeping Houses, and selling Brandy, Strong Waters, Cyder, or Metheglin: But though it is the Business of all these People to entertain, for their Profit, all Sorts of Customers, yet, as they are forced to entertain these to their Loss, it makes them uneasy, and puts them upon Means of getting rid of such Guests.

These Foot-guards are mostly young Men, and when off Duty, have nothing, or very little to do as Soldiers. Now, as Idleness is the Root of all Evil, Evil will certainly spring from it. The Publican and the Soldier have one and the same Object in this Affair, which is the Soldier's Absence; and this the Publican agrees for, with the Soldier, if he can, and usually at the Rate of Nine-pence a Week, which the Soldier takes in lieu of all Allowances. The Soldier then has no Engagement to keep in his Quarters, and has little other Business there, than to visit his Landlord for his Pay, and when off Duty, his Time is mostly his own, and he is at full Liberty to employ it as he pleases: I wish I could stop, with saying he employed it without Complaint, but sad Experience shews us otherwise; or, Why do we daily see such Numbers of them brought to Justice

Justice for the worst of Crimes, and the Publick so much molested by them?

It is no Doubt necessary, that the Foot-guards should be near at Hand, for the more ready Attendance on his Majesty's Person, and the rest of the Royal Family: It is not only for the Honour of the Nation, and to shew a due Respect to the King's Dignity, that this Corps is maintained and kept; but we often find them of Use in assisting the civil Magistrate, and they likewise do remarkable Service in Accidents of Fire; and, therefore, the Remedy for this great Evil cannot be a Removal of their Quarters to any greater Distance: Some other Means must be found out for this Purpose, and what is most agreeable to military Discipline, I mean some Restraint upon their Persons, that they may be more under the Eye of their Officers, and that will certainly be the best Security for the Soldier's good Behaviour to the Publick; by this Means, his Motions will the more easily be observed, and, if his Mind has a mischievous Turn, he is obliged to be so much within call, that he will want Opportunity, either to promote, or commit any bad Action, or give any publick Offence whatever; and, if he attempts so to do, a speedy Discovery will follow, and a speedy Reward also,
according

according to his Deserts. Penalties and Punishments are no Guard to us, even that of Death itself is not sufficient; Robbers now are not content with the Plunder, without adding Cruelty to the Crime, a Stranger always to this Nation till of late, and of what Growth, or from what Country we have imported it, I should be tender in affirming, were I more certain of it; but, I think, I may venture to say it is not *English*, and yet I cannot avoid discovering a Jealousy in my Mind, that it may in some Measure be owing to the yearly Accession of certain poor Neighbouring-strangers, who visit us at our Times of Harvest, and come, indeed, upon a very plausible Errand, that is, when unemployed at Home, to get something among us by Summer Labour, assisting the Farmer here, at a Time when his Work requires greater Expedition and Dispatch, than his few Hands about him are able to perform.

If this was the only Motive, and this seasonable Labourer was to return when his Summer Work was ended, I think it a real Advantage to the Farmer, and that it should not be discouraged among us; but if, after this Labour is done, the Stranger likes this Country better than his own, and chooses to continue here, rather than return Home again, I fear we have
then

then one Poor more added to the unhappy Stock we have of our own, already more than we can tell what to do with. When this Stranger has spent his Gains, and, as out of Season, is out of Employment, he generally sinks into Want, becomes desperate, and supports himself by violent Means; and I do not remember, that before this Practice of Summer Visits was so common with us, Cruelties were so common among Rogues; I remember too, that we had often Accounts of such from their Country. Our Ancestors were very jealous of receiving them, as many of our old Statutes testify, and, therefore, without Censure we may be a little more circumspect than we are.

If this yearly Accession of Poor cannot be regulated, it were better to be prevented, as the ill Consequence far exceeds the Benefit received. In short, we all see that our Poor are grown so numerous, and become such a Burthen, they are the greatest Tax now in being upon those who provide for them, and, unless brought under some better Order, they will soon elude the Art of Civil Power, and any Law to controul them, and be more likely to bring their Superiors to a Level with themselves, than submit to any Rule they should make for them.

After

After this Digression which has come in my Way, I return to my Billeting Subject, and I doubt not but my Reader will be beforehand with me in that Sort of Restraint I would propose for the Soldier, a happy one for him, as well as the Publick ; the first it will keep out of Mischief, or be a great Means towards it, and the last will have a good Security against his Attempts to disturb its Quiet. The Restraint I would offer is no new Thing, it is no more than to keep him in *Barrack*, as his Brother Soldiers are in the *Tower* and the *Savoy* ; and I am well informed, the utmost Regularity and Order is observed with the Soldiers in those *Barracks* ; for this Purpose therefore, I would propose to build two or more new ones, which will hold the rest of them,

These *Barracks* have been long used, and must answer all Expectations, as well Civil as Military, as every one will judge when they consider the Nature of them ; they keep the Soldiers in one Place, without interfering too much with the People, where they are provided with all those Necessaries that are required in other Quarters ; they are always under the Eye of their Officers, they can be but few Hours in the Day absent, and at a seasonable Hour in the

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the Evening they must be in their *Barracks*, where they are lock'd up 'till Morning. The later Hours at Night we all know are the Times to commit Villianies. The best Way to prevent them, is to prevent those who are most suspected, from the Opportunity and Means of doing them : In this Town, where there is a Crowd of Pleasures and Vices, it is no Wonder if the lower Class of People is corrupted by them, as they are, from their Ignorance, least capable of resisting ; and, in Defiance of the Law, we see them daily risquing Life itself, in obtaining Means to procure them ; their Motions therefore require the more to be watched.

The Foot-guards, I am told, exclusive of two Battalions in *Barracks*, are forty-seven Companies, or five Battalions, amounting to near ~~twenty~~ *two* thousand Men, now billeted on the Publicans, as I have mentioned ; the Publicans within the Extent of Billeting, are computed at about four thousand ; and, although they are not all billeted on at one Time, yet all have it at one Time or other, as all are liable to it.

These People are, in the first Instance, obliged to receive these Guards, and supply them as the Act requires ; and either do actually receive them, or compound with them, and pay for

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their

their Absence, as I have said before ; but, they might, I think, be put into such a Situation in this Respect, as would render their Burthen much easier to themselves, and at the same Time afford Safety to the Publick. It has been said, that the Soldier agrees with the Publican, to keep clear of his House, in Consideration of receiving from him Nine-pence a Week : Now, if the Publican was consulted, I apprehend, he would rather pay this Composition in another Manner to be quite rid of him, than be always subject to receive the Soldier into his House, or be at the Pain or Uncertainty of treating with him to be excused from the Billet.

This weekly Payment being laid generally, and upon the Whole, for a few Years certain, would be a Fund sufficient to bear the Expence of building such *Barracks* ; and then it might be reduced so much, as to answer the Maintenance only, which would not be Half what it would be at first setting out ; and it may not be ill presumed, that the Publican would like this Measure. The Maintenance, at a full Computation, will not exceed 3000 *l.* a Year, which to each Publican will then be but 15 *s.* a Year ; a very moderate Payment, for so much Ease and Convenience, and less than Half of what he
pays

pays now, as it is propos'd to take the Whole no longer than it will compleat the Building, and furnishing the *Barracks* as mentioned.

The Publican now considers the Soldier, if he keeps him, as a continual Interruption in his Business; he is always in the Way of his Customers, and to many a disagreeable Object: To outward Appearance, he is a strong Emblem of Idleness, doing nothing, and having nothing to do; and when he can get from the Eyes of Observers, too often doing Mischief. I say, many see the Soldier in Quarters in this Light, without considering his Use and Service when his Duty calls; but, if this Alteration was made as to his Quarters, it would not only keep this Part of his Life more from the Eye of the Publick, and such Sort of Censures; but the People will at the same Time be well secured from their Irregularities and Disorders. The Soldier then would hardly ever appear but in his true Character, in such Duty as is required of him, and as an honourable Servant of the Publick, by whom he is maintained and cherish'd in Time of Peace, as the Recompence of his Danger and Service in Time of War; as one, though appointed to a Military Life, conforms readily to Civil Rule and Government, taking Pains to deserve the

Favour of his Patron the People, behaving to all with Complacency and Respect : In this Light, he would always be well with the People ; and as to himself, he would look on the rest of his Fellow-Citizens as the Objects of his Care ; and so far from being guilty of any Breach of their Laws, not only consider it his Duty to defend them against their declared, or avowed Enemies Abroad, but know it was incumbent on him, to be a Watch over the publick Peace at Home, as well as to assist the Civil Power when required of him. If the Soldier was to learn this Lesson, it would soon gain him the Love and Esteem of the People, and preserve him from the evil Eye, and the many severe Reflections now cast upon him ; the Occasion of which, if possible, should be removed. This Rule and Conduct would likewise effectually preserve him from those Temptations and Vices, which now he too often pursues, 'till he is guilty of some capital Violation of the publick Peace, that ends in his own Ruin.

I am aware of one or two Objections which I have heard in common Conversation, where Barracks for the Foot-guards has been mentioned. *First*, That this is collecting a Military Force, and keeping it together, which, under arbitrary

arbitrary Rulers, might be dangerous to the Liberty of the People; but when I consider that these Guards, from the Nature of Military Discipline, may be called together from their billeting Quarters in two Hours Time or less, and as easily as from Barracks; that their Number is too inconsiderable to create a Suspicion of this Nature; and as to our present State, that we so fully and freely enjoy our Liberties under a mild and happy Administration, guided and conducted by the great and paternal Care of the best of Kings; that this Objection, like a Shadow, passes away, and I answer myself, it can have no real Weight in it.

The other Objection I have a Suspicion of, is from the Manner I propose to execute this Design, that the establishing such a Kind of Payment to be made by the Publicans, for any certain Number of Years, to answer the Charge of building and furnishing those Barracks, will be inconsistent with our present Method of providing for the Payment of the Army and their Quarters, which is only done from Year to Year; but as the Ease of the Subject, and the Preservation of the publick Peace, is the Motive, and this Restraint (if approved) must be considered as the Means of obtaining it; and as it is a
temporary

temporary Measure only, to raise the Money for the building and furnishing the Barracks ; and when it has performed this Service, will be reduced, and then made Use of for the Maintenance only, and may then keep even Pace with the Mutiny Act itself, and be only provided for from Year to Year ; I hope this Objection will not have that Weight, as to be a Means of obstructing so necessary and essential Work ; but if it should, and this Thought should be found worthy to be put in Execution, the People surely would not think much of paying something to procure their own Peace ; and it might be hoped, the publick Purse would be allowed to answer the first Expence of building and furnishing these Barracks, and the Publicans would then be only charged with the easy yearly Call for maintaining them.



The Insolence of Household Servants.

I AM now come to the last Head of Complaint, that relating to Household Servants, as they are retained, and serve in and about this great City ; and if any Remedy could be hit upon

upon that would induce or compel them to behave with more Humility and Obedience, it would deliver us from one of the greatest Plagues that has been for any Time endured. Neglect of Duty, absenting themselves from Service without Leave, Insolence in Behaviour, wilful wasting and destroying of Goods, running in Debt in the Master's Name, leaving their Service abruptly, or with short Warning, and before the Master or Mistress is provided with another, defaming and slandering the Families they serve, and refusing to serve but under extravagant Wages and Conditions, are some among the many Causes of domestick Complaints against them; and yet of all others they have the greatest Reason to be dutiful, and well-disposed, and contented with their Condition, and ought to contribute all in their Power to make the Lives of those easy whom they serve.

They have no Care, they have the Necessaries of Life provided for them, and a yearly Sum for their Encouragement, to lay by for their better Support at a proper Time, when their Time of Labour's over, or, if they marry, to put them into a more independent State (by following some Business, and so becoming otherwise useful Members to the Community) and
have

have really nothing, but a very easy Duty, to perform; and all that is required of them beyond that, is but to behave with Humility and Obedience to their Superiors as becomes their Station.

If the Master refuses to pay them their Wages, the Law is open to do them Justice, and there is no Servant hardly but is quick and knowing enough to put the Law in Execution in this Case. But the Master is not in so good a Condition; there is no summary Law to regulate this Kind of Servant in his Behaviour, and to keep him in his Duty, or to punish him for Refusal, or the Neglect of it, or for committing these Breaches of Duty and Respect towards the Master I have mentioned. And although such Offences are not Breaches of the publick Peace, properly so called, yet they are great Offences against the Government and Peace of a Family, and therefore ought likewise to be provided for, and punished in a proper and summary Way, and in such Manner as, on the one Hand, the Master may not be at too much Trouble and Expence in reducing an untowardly or undutiful Servant to his Labour and Obedience; and yet, on the other, that the Servant may have also a summary Way, without the Fatigue and Expence

pence of *Westminster-hall*, to compel Payment of his Wages, and be guarded against violent or harsh Usage; such a Regulation, and Law to enforce it, will produce in the Household Servant, what it does in the Husbandry Servant, a suitable Humility and Observance of their Duty towards those they serve, and keep good Order in the Master towards them.

This being done, the other Complaints will amend of themselves, these Servants will then know they are punishable for the Faults they now licentiously commit; or, if they are not sensible of it, it will be in the Power of the Magistrate to make them so; such a Regulation will keep their Thoughts from wandering beyond the Bounds of Submission and Duty, and make them more dependent upon their Master or Mistress, and take Pains to gain their good Opinions, upon which only they should build their future Hopes; they will not then be watching the Opportunity of giving Warning upon every slight Occasion and Pretence, but strive and be diligent to please, at least to merit a good Recommendation for their Honesty, Carefulness, and Sobriety, if they are obliged to leave their Service from Incapacity, or are dismissed, or desire of themselves to leave it, for any other reasonable Cause.

Queen *Elizabeth's* Act, relating to Apprentices and Servants, does not extend to these Household Servants, but only those hired and retained for Husbandry ; and as this Act has been found so good a Rule to go by, that it has not been altered, but always esteemed a good and wholesome Law, and is still the only Law to regulate those Things by, in many Respects, it may be very proper to be followed in the present Case.

As this Statute compelled Persons to become Servants in Husbandry within certain Degrees of Life, and under certain Descriptions, so it was necessary to fix their Wages at certain Rates as the Act provides ; but as there are in all Cities and Towns such Numbers ready to offer themselves to serve in House-business, neither the Compulsion nor rating of Wages is of Use ; however, this Act in many other Particulars may be followed with good Service to the Publick in the Case of House Servants.

When a Husbandry Servant is retained, it is for a certain Time ; the Act mentions a Year, and no Person can put away his Servant, nor can the Servant depart the Service before the Time is expired, without Warning to be given three Months before the Expiration by either Master
or

or Servant. In the Case of putting away a Servant by the Master, or Departure of the Servant before his Time is out, without Cause allowed by the Magistrate; in the first Case, the Master forfeits forty Shillings, and in the last, Power is given to commit the Party, without Bail or Mainprize, until Justice is done; and if the Servant is fled, to issue a *Capias*, wherever he is, to apprehend him, which extends to every County in *England*. If a Servant makes any Assault or Affray on his Master or Mistress, and is convicted before two Justices, the Servant is to be imprisoned for a Year; and if the Offence requires greater Punishment, the Sessions have Power to inflict it, so as not to extend to Life or Limb, according to the Quality of the Offence.

So, if a Servant does not perform his Duty for which he is retained, upon Complaint made to two Justices, he will, if convicted, be committed to Prison without Bail till he complies, and gives Security so to do.

These good Rules, with those others in the Act of more Use in the Country than in the Town, keep Husbandry Servants in good Order, and no Complaint is or need be made of either Side, as there is a Provision for Redress. Now to bring the Household Servants in Cities

and Towns, and in the Services of Noblemen, Gentlemen, and Traders Families, under the Rule and Order of such an Act, with some further Addition as hereafter mentioned, I think cannot fail to answer our Purpose, and bring them to a proper Sense of their Obedience and Duty. What I would add, should be a Power to a Justice of the Peace to hear and determine all Differences and Complaints, with respect to Wages between Master and Servant, in a summary Way, and by Warrant of Distress, if necessary, to compel the Payment of Wages where refused. On the other Hand, in order to compel an Obedience and Performance of Duty by the Servant, to have a discretionary Power of Punishment by Commitment and Correction, all Disobedience, Absence from Duty, wilful wasting and destroying of Goods; with Power also to commit as above for abusive Language, or insolent Behaviour; all which should be at the Discretion of the Magistrate.

I cannot pass this Subject over without taking Notice of one great Mistake in our Conduct towards them, which, instead of Encouragement, is a continual Source to support their Extravagance, leading them into Vice, and begetting Insolence among them; I mean our allowing their taking of Vails on the Visits of Friends,
and

and their Profits arising from the Card-tables. These Articles must arise to such a Sum in the Whole, as, if known, would astonish us; and yet, if it were possible to collect it, what Good might it produce if distributed as Servants deserved. As to Vails given at the Door, I despair of ever seeing that amended, I mean disused; but as to Card-money, I believe that might be so contrived as to be kept from them in the Master or Mistress's Hand till the Expiration of the Year, or till the Time of their Service was out; and as it would then be some Addition to their Wages, both together might make up such a Sum as would tempt them to keep, and not squander it away; and I think this might be observed as to Door-vails in middling-Families, if this Custom is not to be left off.

To get an honest, dutiful Servant at any Rate, Man or Woman, is now an Affair of no little Difficulty. As to the Man-servant, when he comes to offer his Service, he does not wait for your Questions as to his Character, or his Testimonials of good Behaviour where he last served; no, he is before-hand with you, and generally wants to be acquainted with the Circumstance of your Place, and especially if you keep much Company, and play at Cards; which he makes a Point of, previous to your Discourse
with

with him. If it happens you have this Temptation belonging to your Family, perhaps he engages, not in Hopes of continuing, but only to get a good House over his Head, 'till he hears of some better Card-house; and then, after some impudent Neglect of Duty, or shewing some Contempt of your Service, gives you a short Warning, and quits you as abruptly as he can. This is pretty much the present State of the Case in hiring Footmen, and may serve as a Specimen to shew how others behave, when hired to other Household Offices; I do not mean with Regard to gaming Vails; but, however, in making every one, their Conditions in their Way, and is really the Servants taking a Master or Mistress, rather than their taking a Servant.

There is another Rock to be avoided in our Conduct towards these Servants, which is, the not suffering them to be in the least familiar with you, but to keep them at that due Distance, without Harshness or Severity, which ought to be observed between Master and Servant.

I am very sensible, that the several Subjects of Complaint against House Servants are of such an abounding Nature, that they would admit of being much longer dwelt upon; but, I am well convinced, that reducing them to Obedience
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by such a discretionary Power of Correction and Punishment in the Magistrate, will soon make them more fearful of offending, and more careful of their Duty, and cure most of our Complaints. What I have hinted with Regard to their Vails, the Master or Mistress may easily make such Agreement on retaining the Servant, to deliver the Vails into their Hands; and, if any Thing be really wanting as to their Cloathing, which can be but seldom, and rather regards the Women Servants than the Men, this will lie by as a little Fund for that Purpose, and may save them from breaking into their Wages; which should always be kept untouched, and, if it could, should be put out at Interest; that when Time and Opportunity offers, it may stand them in some stead, to put them in a better Degree of Life; and Masters would do this for good Servants.

If this, or any other Measure could be taken with this Set of People, that would restore them to that native Simplicity of Mind, Humility, and Obedience, they bring with them from their Country Home; we might be in some Hopes of seeing them act upon the true Principle, of doing every Thing in their Power for their Master's Credit and Interest, and not have
for

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for their only Object the feeding their Vices, and the pursuing of Idleness, Extravagance, and Debauchery, whenever they can rob the Master of his Time, and steal from their Duty. They would then, instead of being one of the greatest Plagues, and too often the Instruments of Ruin to Families, become the Care and Concern of a Master or Mistress, by rendring themselves dutiful, frugal, faithful, and honest, the Characters that a Servant should bear. A dutiful Servant gains, and makes a kind Master, and the longer he stays in his Service, the greater Assurance he has of Encouragement and Preferment; and the Servant under this Controul and Behaviour would soon find to his Advantage, the Difference between a Life of honest Expectation, and that of Waste and Plunder, Insolence and Ingratitude.



Vagrants and desperate Poor.

AND now I have done with the Articles I set out with, I must add what I have promised in my Title, with Respect to the great Grievance of Robberies and Murders so frequent

quent among us, which I ascribe to the universal Disregard to the Laws, arising from the careless Execution, or Inexecution of them; to this we owe the Luxury and Depravity of Manners among the Great. The Imitation of this among the next in Degree, or middle Class of People, and the Loss of Obedience, Civility, and Respect in those under this Degree, that, for Distinction Sake, may go under the Name of the Populace.

In this Situation no one should be surprized, that a Contempt of religious Duties, as well as moral ones, runs through the whole People, and that in this fashionable Negligence, the Vulgar as incapable of Reflection, certainly outdo those above them, and without any Hopes in themselves of Amendment. When I consider these Things, I shudder at the Consequence, and turn prophetic, dreading more the Loss of Liberty to this Country from Luxury, Idleness, Irreligion, and Immorality, than from all the Misconduct complained of in our Government, or the Fears that are often raised of self-interested Designs in Princes.

The Inexecution of Laws is occasioned many Ways, and among others, arises from the Uncertainty, from the Delay, from the Expence, from the Odium that attends the putting them

in Execution; from unbounded Favour and Lenity shewn to those the Law has condemned; and to these must be added, the great Fatigue of Attendance, and Neglect of private Affairs, in the Prosecution of it.

We all know how happily the Legislative, as well as the Executive Power is placed in these Kingdoms; the first in the three Estates together, and the last in the great Magistrate, the King; and from him diffused through many Channels, to protect and preserve the Persons and Properties of the meanest, as well as the greatest of his Subjects; and Hands enough there are to dispense it: But, if the Civil Officer omits his Duty, and the Inferior Magistrate spares to punish, when, or where he ought, and the Execution of the Law, through mistaken Lenity evaded; the Consequence will always be what we now feel, and Liberty with Law will sooner fall a Sacrifice to the Power of the People, than that of the Prince. We may talk of Liberty, but we enjoy it but by Halves, if we are busy in guarding it against the Power of the Prince, and at the same Time suffer every Individual, that is wicked enough, to violate it.—Meer Obedience to the Laws is but Half the Duty of the Subject; he should also industriously promote (whenever

(whenever he sees a Neglect) the due Execution of them ; he should consider the Neglect, as an Injury unpardonable done to himself and his Neighbour, and use his best Endeavours to have it remedy'd. Liberty, that is, Political Liberty, does not consist in the free Exercise of the Will, but in the Safety of our Persons and Properties ; and the Opinion we have of that Safety, to which nothing can conduce more, than to have those Laws, which are made for our Defence and Security, plain, summary, and easy to come at, that is, without too much Fatigue, Delay, or Expence ; and when Men see this Safety declining, they should be very jealous of their Liberty, no Time or Expence should be lost, or spared, in restoring it. And, although we are at the Brink of this Abyss, yet we seem to be so wrapped up in Wealth and Ease, that it is a Doubt whether the highest Rebuke can awaken us. The King, like a watchful and gracious Guardian, in his late Speech from the Throne, is forced himself to rouse us from our Lethargy, in Pity reminding us of our Disease, and urging us to the Cure of it. So generous a Concern demands the readiest Obedience, and the utmost Gratitude. It is not every Nation can boast of so tender a Father of his People.

- This Watch-word from the Throne is great and good, and every one should, to the utmost of his Capacity, exert himself on the Occasion, and summon his best Thoughts for the Benefit of that Publick, of which he is a Member; but how to effect this Reform is the great Point. We must first, if we can, find out the Cause, and then perhaps the Remedy may follow.

The Persons who commit these Robberies and Murders, are, I think, reducible to two Sorts of People; the first are extravagant Insolvents, undone by their own Vices, who turn to be Robbers still to support them. The other are such, who, from being brought up in Beggary and Ignorance, as soon as they can shake off their Childhood, enter into a Course of Idleness; this Idleness produces Vice in those worst of Shapes, Gaming, Drunkenness, and Debauchery; and thus born in Want, and bred up in Idleness, they turn soon to violent Means for their Support, grow desperate, and become Robbers, from their Incapacity for Reflection, and Ignorance of any Thing that is good to direct them: They generally, thro' their Fears, also become Murderers, as the Dead tell no Tales. In this Strain of Villainy and Wickedness,

ness, they must depend chiefly for their Safety upon the Concealment of their Persons, rarely stirring, but under the Cover of the Night, and then only to plunder and do Mischief; and when they return, it is no Doubt to some dark Quarter, where they can, without Discovery, indulge themselves in those Vices which Privacy most favours. The more secure they think themselves in such Hiding-places, the bolder they are in their Villanies. Every suspicious Corner in a Parish must therefore be visited often, and the Suspected treated in some such Manner as I have hereafter proposed. Rogues should have no Resting-place; and, if this Visit was daily, and general, throughout the several Parishes in this great Town, it would be of no Use for them to skulk from one Parish to another, because the same Search would follow them.

This Outlet to Reformation is not difficult to be performed, and if effected, will have this great Consequence, that an idle Fellow, who would be a Rogue, or he that is one, would find, that however mean and insignificant he may think himself, and how easy for him to escape the publick Eye, he is watched in his Motions, and will soon find it behoves him to seek Employment, and get his Living by Labour

bour and Industry, or he will forfeit his Liberty, notwithstanding he is an *Englishman*; as in all these Cases, where the Idle will not work of themselves, the Community, though ever so jealous of Liberty, must find it most expedient to punish them by a Restraint of their Persons; the Disgrace and Fear of which, will soon compel them to seek for Employment, rather than be subject to this Punishment.

Now the Way to make this Search effectual, I think, would be, first, by Law to describe this wretched Class of People as Vagrants and desperate Poor, or by the Name of suspected Persons; and also distinguished by the further Description, of having no visible Way of Livelihood, and not Householders, actually paying Scot and Lot, nor belonging to such a Family, nor Inmates in such Houses (if they could give a good Account of themselves) nor Soldiers, nor Seamen newly returned from their Voyage, nor Servants out of Place, having Testimonials of Sobriety and Honesty, nor Parish-Poor upon the Parish-Books, nor Children under certain Age, nor known working Labourers, but all such others, as before described, to be considered as suspected Persons; and, if called for, should be obliged to attend, on Summons left at the House
where

where they live, or were esteemed to live, and undergo Examination before proper Persons appointed for this Purpose; and, if they should not give a good Account of themselves, nor Security to the Publick for their good Behaviour, they should then become the Property of the People, and be put to Labour, first to answer their own Maintenance, and the Charges attending, and if any Surplus remained, it should go towards the Maintenance of the Poor in general: Then as to their Persons, to be at the Disposal of the Publick, and not to be delivered from their Labour but by publick Consent, or made use of in publick Service, as hereafter mentioned. The Manner of doing all this, and with Effect, I think, likewise, would not be difficult: And the better to explain it, I have added a short Scheme, which I submit for the Purpose; and, I hope, if it should meet with any material Objections, it will yet induce some better Heads than mine to mend it, or think of some better in the Room of it.

I go much upon this Principle, that preventive Laws, if I may call them so, which may defeat the Intention, by taking away the Opportunity of doing Mischief, are better than Laws filled with Penalties and severe Punishments,

ments, and that to watch the Actions of the lower Class of People, making their Persons known, and calling upon them often, and obliging them frequently to give an Account of themselves; and if they will not seek honest Labour, but be incorrigible, to make them Labourers for the Publick, will sooner bring them to a Sense of their Duty, and prevent their committing the Crimes we complain of, than all the Contrivances of Penalty and Punishment the Mind of Man can invent.

The Loss of Liberty is so great a Punishment, that the worst of these Wretches, who is capable of making an Election, would choose to find out honest Labour rather than suffer it, let him be ever so abandoned.

I am much pleased to see our Laws for observing the Sabbath a little taken Notice of by some of the *London* Tradesmen, which shews a becoming Spirit, and that even the lesser People can find Remedies to ease themselves, and do Honour to the State, when they go about it.

It were to be wished, that no Alehouses were suffered to be open on the Sabbath-day; this would prevent Drunkenness on that Day in the lower People, who make it a Day of Riot, and not of Rest; and when intoxicated with Liquor,
how

how easily they are led into Mischief, is too evident. It would be a good Regulation too, not to suffer any Coaches, Horses, or Chaises, to be let out on this Day, it would prevent a great deal of Riot and Expence. In case of Necessity a Licence might be given by a Magistrate, as it is the Rule on the River *Thames*; then no Night-houses should be suffered but what are absolutely necessary, as Tide-houses, some Ale-houses belonging to publick Markets, and one at each great Stand of Hackney Coaches; and that they should give Security not to admit Gamesters, or riotous Persons, or Women of ill Fame, especially in the Night. I would have no Alehouse-keeper have a Licence but on the special Condition, that he does not admit of any Gaming whatever in his House, and that he enter into Recognizance, in a considerable Penalty to the Clerk of the Peace, to observe it; or that, being convicted before a Magistrate, he himself should be void.

The Laws against Hue and Cry should be made more effectual if possible, or executed with the utmost Observance; and upon all Occasions that offer, Bawdy-houses, and all Houses of ill Fame, should be put down in a more summary Way than by Indictment, as upon a Represen-

tation of six or more Housekeepers in a Parish, and upon Conviction before two Justices of the Peace, they should have Power to remove the Offenders at once out of the House, and put out their Goods, and send for the Owner to take the Possession, and admonish him for admitting such Tenants; and if he made Default in attending, then to lock up the House, and keep the Key till the Owners thought fit to come for it; and in Case of second Letting to the like Tenants knowingly, then, on Conviction, to have Power to levy some Penalty on his Goods adequate to the Offence.

Some salutary Rules and Orders like these, for summary Justice, would do more than the Terrors of *Westminster-hall* by any Crown Prosecution whatever.

These Thoughts are such as result from a very honest Motive, the Good of the Publick, and if they should be found so expedient as to be put in Practice, I please myself with thinking they will go a great Way in reforming the Manners, and preventing the Vices in the lower People; in the mean Time, I will beg Leave to add what I have mentioned, which may tend towards the Cure.

In the first Place, I should think that the Power of the Constables might be further extended or explained for this Purpose, or that a new Officer might be added to every Parish, who should hold his Office for Life, unless removed for Misdemeanor, and who should be paid by some easy Salary by the Parish, out of the Poor's Rate, and have some stated reasonable Fees to encourage him in the Execution of his Office, and be stiled the Vagrant Constable, and have nothing to do with any other Part of the Constable's Office, but what related to his own Charge; the other Constable and his Headborough, in Case of Necessity, nevertheless being obliged to assist him.

That this Officer be continually employed in some Part of the Parish in the proposed Search and Enquiry after suspected Persons, and deliver to the Clerk of the Vestry, every *Monday* Morning, a true List of all such Persons who may be within the Description above, and the Clerk to lay them before the Inhabitants in Vestry; and if a few of them were specially appointed for this Purpose, exclusive of other Parish Business, it would be better. That this Vestry should meet every *Tuesday* Morning to receive and consider this List, and give Orders to their Vagrant Con-

stable, that printed Summons should be served personally on them, if it may be ; if not, to be est at the Houses such suspected Persons occupy, or lodge at, with the Master or Mistrefs, or the Tenant of the House ; or if they are not to be found, to fix it on the Door, and at the next Meeting, if they do not attend, the Constable should have an Order from the Vestry to seize their Persons for the Contempt wherever found, to be dealt with as Vagrants.

In Case they appear on the Summons, the Vestry to examine them ; and if they find them within the Description, then first to admonish them, and charge them to look out for some Employment ; and if they come in the List again, to give them Notice to find two House-keepers to be their Security for their good Behaviour to the Publick ; and if they do not find Security, but come into the List a third Time, that the Vestry be empowered to send them to the publick Workhouse, and House of Correction, belonging to the Parish, for suspected Persons, to remain there as hereafter is proposed.

That the Constable take an Account as well of Inmates as those who keep Houses, and are suspected Persons, as aforesaid, and that he return the List of Inmates separate from the other.

That

That if any Houses are employed or occupied by suspected Persons for nightly Shelter only, which is notoriously the Case in *Kent-street* in *Southwark*, and many other Places, where they have Access at all Hours in the Night, and lye promiscuously together, the Owner's Name be returned to the Vestry, with an Account of the Use such House is put to; and that the Vestry have a Power to call such Landlord or Owner before them, and admonish him, that he may not suffer such Inmates for the future; and if he is again returned in the next Week's List, that he be admonished a second Time; and if he comes a third Time, that the Vestry may have a Power to lock up the House, and keep it so until the Owner shall give Security, in a good round Penalty, not to let it to such Uses any more.

That in every Parish in *London*, the Vagrant Constable should have a strong House, where he should live himself, and have the Custody of his Vagrant Prisoners, until he could pass them to the Hundred House, as hereafter mentioned.

That in every Hundred of the several Counties of *Middlesex*, *Essex*, *Surry*, and *Kent*, nearest to this great City, there be a Vagrant House built at the publick Charge, (to be put to no other

other Use) in the Nature of a Barrack as to the Lodging, with a large Storehouse for the Materials for Work, and another for the Work when done, and fit for Sale; the Form to be a Quadrangle, with an Area in the Middle, having on the Sides the under Part left open as Sheds for working dry in wet Season; the Area to be the Place for giving Correction to those who were disobedient, having a Stocks and Whipping-post in the Middle, but no one to be corrected but by Order of that Vestry that committed them; and that it be made Felony, in any one committed, to break from the Workhouse, or the Keeper, or in any one rescuing such a Prisoner, or attempting it; and that no Person sent there be delivered from thence, but on Security to be given for his good Behaviour before two Justices of the Peace, or on his Majesty's Order for his Service by Sea or Land, or to any of our Plantations.

That a convenient Apartment be also built for the Keeper of this Vagrant House, and a Kitchen, and that an Assistant be also allowed, by Way of Clerk, if necessary, and a Woman to dress the Meat, and that the Employment and Correction of the People be left to this Master, under the Vestry Order, as aforesaid, who is to keep himself, Clerk, and Woman, and

and the People in Victuals, Cloaths, and Lodging out of their Labour, having, out of the Fund to be assigned for building these Houses, a certain Sum allowed him at first, for buying such Stock as may set them to work, and this increased, if necessary, out of the Poor's Rate: And that every *Sunday* in the Forenoon and Afternoon, the Prayers of the Church be read to them.

That it be in the Power of the Vestry to visit, or to appoint Persons at any Time to visit and inspect the Conduct, and to rectify any Misrule or Neglect of Duty, in the Vagrant-house, and to displace the Keeper or any Servant, who may be found offending; and that such Visits be had once a Month.

That any Nobleman, Gentleman, Farmer or other, having any Work to do, and there are not Hands sufficient in the Neighbourhood for the Work, to have Liberty to take any Number of Hands from the Vagrant-house, having Order from the Vestry for this Purpose, and employ them in such Work, paying what is reasonable for their Labour, to the Keeper, as in the Order should be mentioned.

That an Estimate be made of the Building such Vagrant-house, as above; and after considering

considering the whole Number, allowing one in each neighbouring Hundred, to calculate the Expence. That this be provided for by the Publick, by a small Addition to the Land-Tax for one Year, or by a Lottery, or such other Way as may be best; and that as great Care should be taken in erecting and compleating these Buildings, it would be best to have it done by Contract, in a certain Time, and paid for according to Measure and Workmanship; and by that we may steer clear of Impositions.

That from the Parish-house in *London*, the Vagrant Constable take Care to pass, as soon as may be, every Vagrant committed to him, to the nearest Hundred-house; and as the Hundred-houses nearest the Town fill, a proper Number must be draughted and passed from Time to Time, to those who are next in Distance from the Town; and by this Means, every Hundred-house will have its Proportion, as it will be necessary to preserve such Rule, that every Hundred-house may have an equal Number of Hands, or as near as may be, at Work for the Use of the Publick, as each must have the same Stock to work upon.

That these Vagrant-houses be draughted, if found expedient, from Time to Time, to increase
our

our Colonies, and for that Purpose sent on Board our Ships of War, when they relieve one another in such Stations, 50 or 100 at a Time, the Expence of which would be little felt.

If *Middlesex*, and the above neighbouring Counties be supply'd with these Vagrant-houses, and such a Watch, and continual Search is established over the Actions, and sheltring Places of this low and suspected Set of People, in every Parish in *London*, as I have mentioned, or something like it, and the idle and suspected forced into Labour at Peril of their Liberty, this great City, which from its monstrous Bulk, becomes a certain Shelter for them, would be soon freed from this miserable Class of People, and of Course from the Robberies and Murders, now so frequent among us, and such like good Rule and Order being continued, would secure us from them for the Future.

But in this, as in every Thing I have said, I submit my Thoughts, to the Consideration of all those who have as hearty a Zeal for the Welfare of the Publick as myself.

P O S T-

(66)

POSTSCRIPT.

Although the Poulterer's Shop has not so much Complaint attending it as that of the Butcher, it is nevertheless so notorious an Obstruction in the Foot-way, and so offensive to the Passengers, that it is highly necessary to be removed to the Market as well as that of the Butcher, and no longer infest the Street.

F I N I S.

ERRATUM.

In Page 57, Lines 20 and 21, for *be himself*, read *his Licence*.



22 JY 69

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